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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KATO, et al.  
Serial No.: 10/796,195  
Filed: March 10, 2004  
For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING  
METHOD THEREFOR  
Group: 3749  
Examiner: K. O'Malley

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 28, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 26, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as listed in the following, and as set forth on the following pages:

**Amendments to the Claims; and**

**Remarks** are included following the amendments.

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